

## THE METHODIST MISSION IN OREGON

- 1834 The Reverend Jason Lee established his mission for the Indians on the banks of the Willamette River ten miles north of Salem.
- 1836 The first reinforcement of personnel and equipment arrived from Boston via the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii).
- 1838 A satellite station was established at The Dalles on the Columbia River. The mission's greatest success in work with the native population would be realized at "Wascopam."
- 1840 The second reinforcement of men, women and children arrived on the Lausanne. It was one of the most extensive foreign missionary expeditions ever sent out from New York to that time. A saw-and-grist mill was erected at Salem.
- 1841 The Willamette Station headquarters was moved to the site of the sawmill and grist mill. Lewis H. Judson, cabinet maker, and, possibly, William H. Wilson helped build Superintendent Lee's house. Hamilton Campbell, mission carpenter-builder, supervised construction of the Indian Manual Labor Training School and the nearby Parsonage for Gustavus Hines.
- 1842 Classes were begun in the Oregon Institute, now Willamette University.
- 1843 A series of meetings of missionaries and the settler community took place concerning a civil organization until such time as the United States should extend its protection to the Pacific Northwest. One of the sessions was held at the Parsonage. The meetings culminated in the historic gathering at Champeog on May 2, at which time Willamette Valley settlers determined to form the Provisional Government of Oregon. Members of the Oregon Mission took active part in the organization.
- 1844 Financial difficulties caused the Board of Managers of the Methodist Missionary Society to cut back its support of foreign missions. In the ensuing retrenchment in Oregon, all property was disposed of except the parsonages at Salem and Oregon City and the station at The Dalles. In Salem, the Indian Manual Labor Training School was sold to Trustees of the Oregon Institute.
- 1845 The Reverend George Gary, Jason Lee's successor as Superintendent, moved into the Parsonage in Salem to lay ground work for conventional preaching circuits.
- 1846 The question of sovereignty in Oregon was debated before the 29th Congress. As a result, a treaty with Britain was negotiated on June 14 which fixed the boundary between British and United States possessions at the 49th parallel. "Wascopam," the Oregon Mission station at The Dalles, was sold to Marcus Whitman through a transfer of title to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.
- The third and last Superintendent of the Oregon Mission, the Reverend William Roberts, arrived in June. He immediately organized preaching circuits on both sides of the Willamette, thus formally shifting the field of labor to the white settlement.
- 1848 Oregon became a Territory of the United States on August 14 by an Act of the 31st Congress signed by President James K. Pol.
- 1849 Superintendent William Roberts moved his family from the Territorial Capital of Oregon City to Salem, where he shared quarters in the Parsonage with J. H. Wilbur, Principal of the Oregon Institute. While at the Parsonage, Roberts organized the Oregon and California Mission Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
- 1853 The Territorial Legislature granted a charter to the Methodist-sponsored Oregon Institute, forerunner of Willamette University.

## THE HISTORICAL SITES OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

The first member of the Methodist Episcopacy arrived in Oregon. Bishop Edward F. Ames created three districts, thereby making Oregon Methodists an integral part of the connection of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

- 1864 Corner stone was laid for Waller Hall, first building of Willamette University
- 1865 Philomath College was chartered.



## THE REV. JASON LEE WHO WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE FOUNDING OF THE METHODIST MISSION IN 1834

## MISSIONARY ENTERPRISE IN EARLY OREGON

Until 1834 the only people who were interested in Oregon were the fur traders. In that year the Rev. Jason Lee and his small band of missionaries paddled their canoes up the Willamette River and established a mission station, ostensibly to minister to the Indians. Later other stations were founded at The Dalles, Clatsop Plains, Oregon City and Nisqually. At that time it was the largest missionary enterprise in the world. At the height of its activity it numbered 68 men, women and children, all of them sent to the West by the New York based Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

## THE HISTORICAL SITES

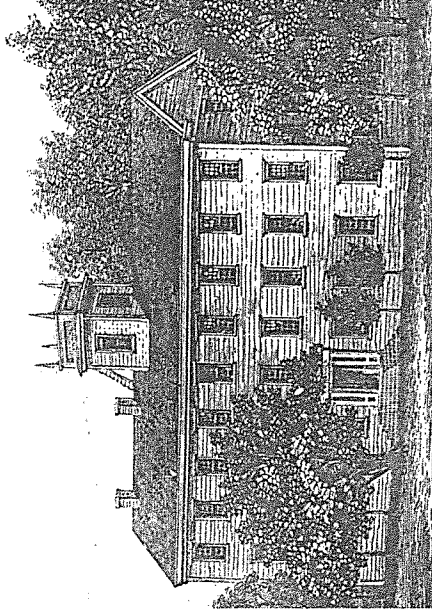
Most of the Historical sites of the Methodist Mission in Oregon may be reached by travelling down Interstate 5 from Portland to Salem and beyond. Ten miles north of Salem, near to Wheatland Ferry lies the original site known as the *Mission on the Bottom*. There is little to indicate that this is a historical site. In 1841, because of the danger of seasonal flooding, the mission was moved to the site of the saw and grist mills, now to be found at 260 12th St. in Salem. Entrance is easier from Mill St. between 12th and 14th Streets.

## MISSION PARSONAGE AND JASON LEE HOUSE

The Mission Parsonage and the Jason Lee House, both built in 1841, have been moved to the above site, thoroughly renovated and furnished appropriately. The John D. Boon house, built in 1846 is nearby. The original saw and grist mills are to be similarly restored when funds become available. The above-mentioned houses and a small museum in the buildings are known as the Thomas Kay Memorial Park.

## WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY

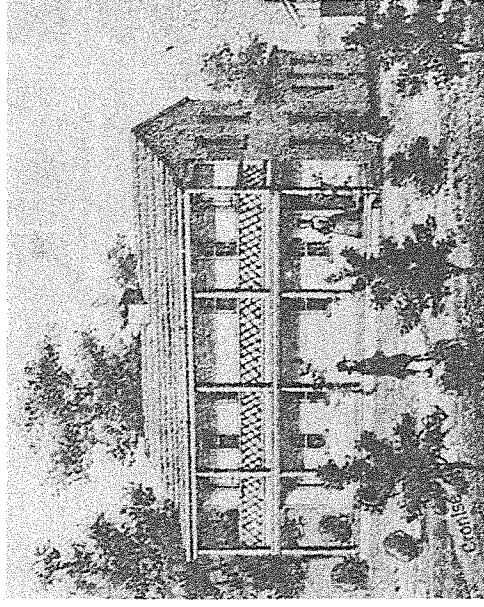
Across 12th Street is Willamette University, the site of the original Oregon Institute where classes were begun in 1842. Waller Hall, the corner stone of which was laid in 1864, was the first building of the university to be erected. It is still in use. Nearby is the Jason Lee Memorial stone, given by Mr. Lewis Judson, to link for all time the relationship of the university to the original Methodist Mission.



in the state speak highly of this institution where they were trained. It is a symbol of the early efforts of the United Brethren to bring both secular and religious education to this part of the country. It is listed in the National Register of Historical Places and plans are being made to restore the building for use as a community library, museum and for other activities.

## HISTORIC OREGON CITY

Turning north again along Interstate 5 and driving past Salem and Woodburn to Highway 205 the traveler will come to Oregon City. A visit to the house of Dr. John McLoughlin will be of great interest. Dr. McLoughlin was the chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company on the Pacific Coast. It was he who met the weary travelers at Fort Vancouver and advised Jason Lee to start their mission in the Willamette Valley. He was most helpful to the members of the mission in their early endeavors. Lee and his party left Vancouver on September 29, 1834 as they made their way up the river to found their mission station.



## STATUES ON THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

The State Capitol lies across the road from the university. Here are to be found an equestrian statue of a circuit rider, honoring the memory of Robert Booth, an early Methodist circuit rider, and replicas of statues of the Rev. Jason Lee and Dr. John McLoughlin. The originals of these are in the Statuary Hall in Washington D.C.

## LEE MISSION CEMETERY

Not far away, in the 23rd block of D Street is the Lee Mission Cemetery, where within what is known as the Jason Lee Section, lie the remains of the Rev. Jason Lee and Anna Maria Pitman, his first wife. The grave-stones are not the originals which are kept in a safe place elsewhere.

## PHILOMATH COLLEGE

Returning to Interstate 5 and travelling south and then west some miles beyond the city of Albany, lies the city of Corvallis. Here is Oregon State University which began its existence as a Methodist College, later becoming a Land Grant college before it gained university status.

A few miles west of Corvallis is the small community of Philomath, where, next to the United Methodist Church, is the red brick building known as Philomath College, chartered in 1867. Many of the older teachers